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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q61531

Tasuku HONJO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/674,379

Group Art Unit: 1646

Confirmation No.: 7110

Examiner: O. Chernyshev

Filed: January 25, 2002

For: A NOVEL POLYPEPTIDE, A cDNA ENCODING THE POLYPEPTIDE AND
UTILIZATION THEREOF

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 5, 2003. As this paper is being filed within the one month time period for reply established by the Examiner, this reply is timely.

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires Applicants to elect one of the two following inventions:

Group I - Claims 1-7 and 11-13, drawn to a polypeptide, a cDNA encoding the polypeptide, a vector, a host cell, a pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide and a method of using the polypeptide in a screening method.

Group II - Claims 9, 14 and 15, drawn to an antibody and a method of treatment by administration of the antibody.

In response, Applicants hereby elect **Group I**, claims 1-7 and 11-13. This election is made without traverse.

Also in the Office Action dated May 5, 2003, the Examiner indicates that claims 8 and 10 have been withdrawn from consideration as being in improper form (improper multiple dependent claims). Applicants include herewith a Preliminary Amendment correcting the dependencies of these claims, and respectfully request that they be added to the claims of Group I, and thus be subject to examination along with claims 1-7 and 11-13. As both of these claims are dependent from claims of Group I, and recite related subject matter, Applicants contend that inclusion of these two claims in Group I is proper.

Respectfully submitted,



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